

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 164029

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ,BOR, PINT, PEPR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARDS  
LEBANESE MOVES

REF: (A) BEIRUT 3504, (B) BEIRUT 3511, (C) TEL AVIV 7986

1. WHILE AWAITING FURTHER COMMENTS FROM AMB. LE'IS AS TO  
THE DESIRABILITY OF ASSISTING INDIRECT GOI-GOL DIALOGUE,  
WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF ONE OF THE QUESTIONS  
POSED BY BOUTROS IN BEIRUT 3504. BOUTROS IMPLIED THAT THE  
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND LEBANESE ARMY UNITS WHICH MIGHT BE

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SENT TO THE SOUTH WOULD NOT CHOOSE THE PATH OF ACCOMMODATION  
WITH THE MILITIAS WHICH UNIFIL WAS NOW FOLLOWING. HE  
INDICATED THE LEBANESE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE "EFFECTIVE  
ACTION" AGAINST THE MILITIAS.

2. WE FRANKLY FIND THESE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM  
BOUTROS SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT WITH EARLIER PROTESTATIONS

THAT THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS MIGHT WELL CHALLENGE LEBANESE ARMY UNITS MILITARILY AND THAT THERE WERE DANGERS THAT SOME OF THE LEBANESE UNITS MIGHT DEFECT TO THE MILITIAS. OUR OWN VIEW HERE HAS BEEN THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD, LIKE UNIFIL, PURSUE A POLICY OF COMPROMISE AND ACCOMMODATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, AND ATTEMPT TO

GAIN THEIR CONFIDENCE, LEAVING TO THE FAIRLY FAR DISTANT FUTURE THE EVENTUAL DISSOLUTION OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. IN SHORT, A LEBANESE-STYLE "SOLUTION."

3. AT THIS JUNCTURE, WE SEE SOME DANGERS IN RELAYING IN UNVARNISHED FORM THE LEBANESE QUESTIONS POSED BY BOUTROS. ISRAELI ANSWERS OR REQUESTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION COULD HAVE THE RESULT OF GIVING LEBANESE GOVERNMENT FURTHER EXCUSES FOR HESITATION.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE BEIRUT'S COMMENTS.

5. OUR PRESENT THINKING, OF COURSE, IS THAT EVEN IF WE DO NOT ASSIST IN AN INDIRECT GOL-GOI DIALOGUE AS BOUTROS HAS PROPOSED, WE WILL WANT TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN THROUGH THE ISRAELIS TO ASSURE MILITIA COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL AND THE EVENTUAL DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY UNITS. AMB. LEWIS CAN TREAT THESE AS STANDING INSTRUCTIONS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B  
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